

# Establishment of testing laboratory accreditation under NVLAP – The DHS perspective

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# What is NVLAP?

■ NVLAP is:

- A system for accrediting laboratories found competent to perform specific tests or calibrations or types of tests or calibrations

■ NVLAP is not:

- A certifier of test data
- A certifier of products
- An operator of a certification program

# The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)

- A **process for accreditation** of testing and calibration laboratories
- **NIST** manages NVLAP program
- Based on **ISO/IEC standard 17025**
- **Fee supported** program

# Laboratory Accreditation

Independent, third party evaluation of a laboratory's  
**technical competence.**

- Evaluation is based on a Standard
- Evaluation of **specific scope of accreditation**
- Evaluation by peer technical experts
- Results in formal recognition

# NIST Handbook 150

## NVLAP General Procedures and Requirements

- ✓ General Information
- ✓ Accrediting a Laboratory
- ✓ Conditions and Criteria for Accreditation
  
- ✓ Sections 4 and 5 contain the managerial and technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005
- ✓ Supplement created for specific subject areas, i.e. Cryptography, and now Biometrics

# Stimulus for Biometrics LAP

TSA mandated by Public Law to develop biometric testing guidance and establish a list

Collaboration with NIST and industry

Guidance included testing to be performed by NVLAP accredited laboratory

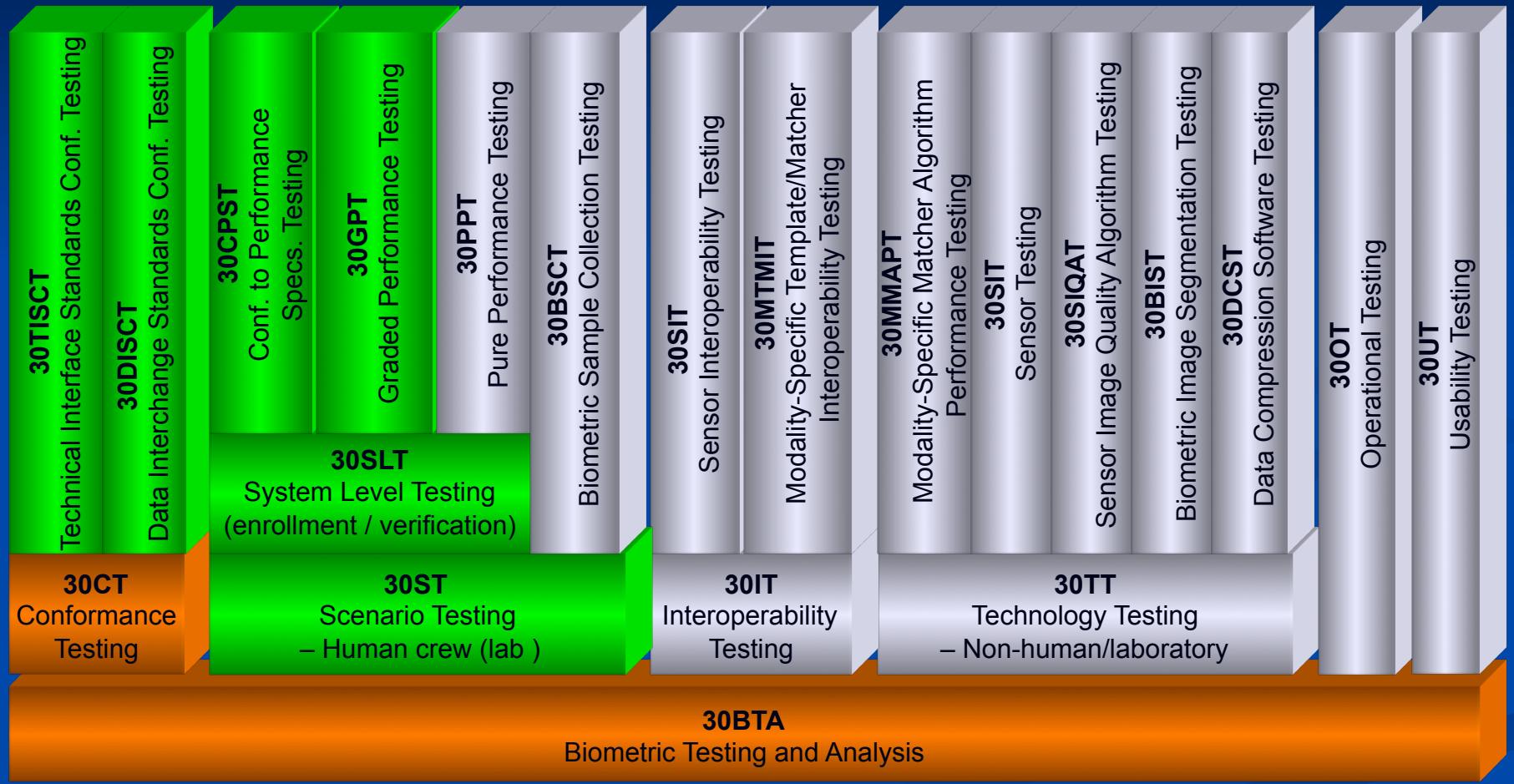
Guidance published 2005

# NIST Handbook 150-25

## Biometrics

- NVLAP Specific Biometric Testing Procedures and Requirements
- Defines “Scopes” of Accreditation – labs choose which Scopes they seek accreditation
- Initial publication Fall 2009

# Biometrics LAP-Scopes



# Biometric Scopes

## 30/CT Conformance Testing

- 30/TISCT      Technical Interface Standards Conformance Testing
- 30/DISCT      Data Interchange Standards Conformance Testing

## 30/ST Scenario Testing – Human Crew (Laboratory)

- 30/SLT      System Level Testing (enrollment/verification)
- 30/CPST      Conformance to Performance Specifications Test
- 30/GPT      Graded Performance Testing
- 30/PPT      Pure Performance Testing
- 30/BSCT      Biometric Sample Collection Testing

## 30/IT Interoperability Testing

- 30/SIT      Sensors Interoperability Testing
- 30/MTMIT      Modality-Specific Template/Matcher Interoperability Testing (one-to-one or one-to-many)

## 30/TT Technology Testing – Non-human/Laboratory

- 30/MMAPT      Modality-Specific Matcher Algorithm Performance Testing
- 30/STT      Sensors Technology Testing
- 30/SIQAT      Sensor Image Quality Algorithm Testing
- 30/BIST      Biometric Image Segmentation Testing
- 30/DCST      Data Compression Software Testing

## 30/OT Operational Testing

## 30/UT Usability Testing

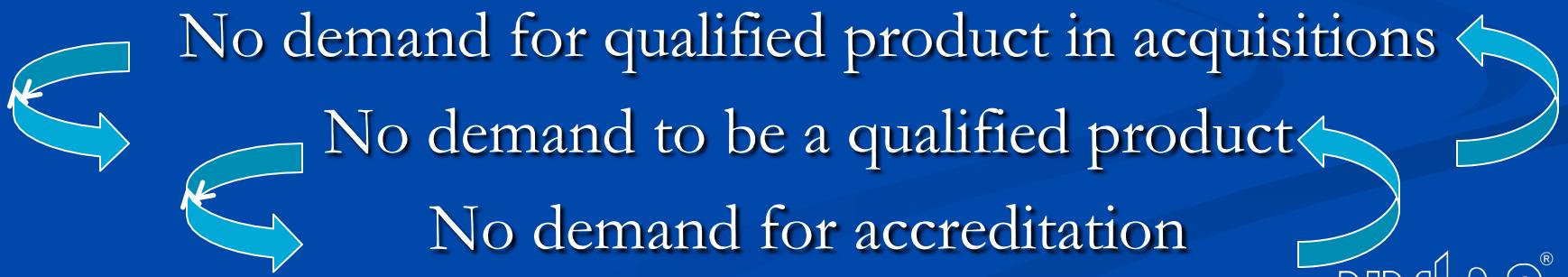


# DHS Perspective

- Utilize Biometrics LAP stimulated by TSA
- Strong motivation to share re-usable test results across the Department (potential for inter-Departmental as well)
- DHS SCO collaborated with TSA/TWIC and commissioned NIST to establish a testing results Management Plan
- Desire to add Scopes (e.g. Quality Algorithm)

# ONE BIG ISSUE!

- Slow uptake by biometrics testing organizations
  - Low volume of testing demand
  - No ROI (to recover up front costs)
- DHS S&T has interest in methods to incentivize/stimulate testing organizations
- “Chicken-and-Egg” situations:



# Thanks for your attention

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- NIST Handbook 150, 150-25

The logo for NVLAP (National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program) features the acronym "NVLAP" in a bold, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned at the top right corner of the letter "P".

NVLAP®